



**PATENT**

Attorney Docket No. 20518/6-CON (S-8165-CON)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: William R. Fiehler EXAMINER: John Kim  
SERIAL NO.: 09-803,570 GROUP: 1723  
FILED: March 9, 2001  
FOR: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING  
SEPARATOR GEL IN A BLOOD COLLECTION TUBE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

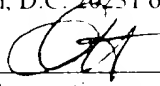
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action dated April 10, 2002, please amend the above-identified application and consider the remarks set forth hereinbelow. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0369.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Box AF, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on August 2, 2002.

  
Carmen M. Constantinescu